

Appl. No. 10/743,192  
Amdt. dated December 12, 2005  
Reply to Office Action Mailed July 15, 2005

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Previously presented): An apparatus comprising:

a rigid shaft having an open first end and an open second end defining a lumen therebetween; and

an inflatable bladder disposed at the distal end and in fluid communication with the lumen, the inflatable bladder having the shape of a wedge upon inflation such that the inflatable bladder separates adjacent portions of bone tissue thereby creating a working space.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the inflatable bladder does not stretch when fully inflated.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the inflatable bladder operates at inflation pressures from 10 mmHg to 1000 mmHg.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): An apparatus as in claim 3, wherein the inflatable bladder operates at inflation pressures from 100 mmHg to 1000 mmHg.

Claims 5-6 (Canceled).

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Claim 7 (Previously presented): An apparatus as in claim 1, further comprising a cannula having a passage which receives the shaft to deploy the bladder at a target site in tissue.

Claims 8-9 (Canceled).